



THE ROVERS REVIEW

The Official Programme of
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Football League Division Four

TRANMERE ROVERS

v

WIGAN ATHLETIC

Sunday, 29th March, 1981

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Match Magazine 25p

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BRYAN HAMILTON Talking Soccer

For the second time of trying in these notes, I would like to welcome you to Sunday Football at Prennton Park. The first time I made that statement was scheduled to be for our game against Bradford but the snow of last month put an end to that.

Obviously, everyone at Prennton Park is hoping that the recent events concerning the club's future will be resolved in our favour but there is still the job to do of picking up points on the football field to improve our League position. You'll have seen that the teams that I've selected to do this will include Rovers youngsters. Youngsters like Steve Whittingham and Derek Mountfield, Neville Power has forced his way into the team and when you think that John Kerr, John Kelly and Ian Griffiths are still relatively inexperienced you'll see to what extent I'm putting my faith in the youngsters of Tranmere Rovers. I don't mind being told that I'm repeating myself, so convinced am I that this is the answer. People tell me that we may draw our biggest gate of the season today with the match being close to a local derby. Hopefully the fact that the game is the first Sunday game in this area might have encouraged a few more people than usual to click through the turnstiles as well, so can I ask you all for an extra loud shout for the Rovers today and we'll try to make a match day to remember.

What a great season my old boss Bobby Robson is having at Ipswich. My years at Ipswich were a most enjoyable part of my career and knowing the Ipswich manager as I do, well I'm not at all surprised that his team are still in the running for three honours. Honesty, knowledge, experience and determination are all inherent in Mr. Robson's personality and that's one of the main reasons that Ipswich are in the position that they are now in.

I've already welcomed the supporters to today's game and I would like to add that welcome to the directors, players and staff of Wigan Athletic. When you realise that Mr. Freddie Pye and Mr. Bobby Charlton are on their board of directors and that they have Larry Lloyd as their player manager, they are most definitely a club that mean to go places. But despite that I hope that all they have to go home with today are the best wishes from Tranmere Rovers and no league points.

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JOHN BROWN (Goalkeeper). Bradford-born John was an apprentice joiner before he stepped into League Football with Preston at 17. His progress at Deepdale was hindered by the reliable Eric International, Alan Kelly, and after spending 11½ years with North End, he was released in 1975. He then had one season with Stockport County before joining Wigan Athletic, for whom he has been a most reliable and efficient keeper at both non-league and Football League levels. Wigan's Player of the Year in 1979-1980.

BOB WARD (Goalkeeper). As a boy, Bob supported his local side West Bromwich Albion, and he has had the double experience of playing at "The Hawthorns" both for and against Albion! After leaving school, he played as an amateur for West Brom., eventually turning professional at 18 and making 15 first-team appearances. He later joined Blackpool for a £20,000 fee and made his debut for the Seaside in an F.A. Cup tie at West Bromwich. He made 41 League appearances for Blackpool before joining Wigan last summer. Unfortunately, an early season restricted his appearances for his new club but the signs are that he will be pushing hard for a first team place this coming season.

DAVE FRETWELL (Defender). Played as a schoolboy for Yorkshire and England at under-18 level, before studying industrial management at Bradford University. As a part-timer, he played regularly for Bradford City in the Third and Fourth Divisions of the Football League, and comfortably made the transition from part-time to full-time. He made 250 appearances for the Yorkshire club before sampling the American soccer scene in California. On his return, he returned Wigan Athletic for whom he has been a most reliable and consistent performer over the past two seasons.

JOHN CURTIS (Defender). Another ex-Seaside, who has found a new lease of life at Springfield Park, after a bright opening to his career at Bloomfield Road, the Poulton-le-Flyde born defender moved on to Blackburn Rovers, a club at which he never really justified his true potential. After a short period on loan to Wigan Athletic at the end of the 1978-1979 season, John finally signed-up for Wigan on a full contract, only to be cruelly halted in his tracks by a leg fracture which left him on the sidelines for all but a handful of last season's games.

GEORGE URQUHART (Midfield). Joined his former boss Ian McNeill from Ross County for a nominal fee last year. Born in Glasgow, he won Scottish amateur international honours against England and Ireland before signing for St. Mirren in 1968. After three seasons there, he had one year with Guildford in the Southern League before joining Mr. McNeill in a very successful Ross County side. Last season George performed a key role in tightening up the midfield unit and the high spot of his season was a very fine game against Everton's Ase Hartford in a Fourth Round F.A. Cup tie played at Goodison Park.

JEFF WRIGHT (Midfield). After leaving Grammar School, Jeff worked at the local foundry after leaving Grammar School. Played for both Tow Law in the Northern League and Netherfield in the Northern Premier League before joining Wigan in 1974. He has shared in many of Wigan's F.A. Cup triumphs at non-league and Football League levels — victories over Shrewsbury Town, York City and Sheffield Wednesday while a non-league player and Blackpool and Chelsea as a Football League player — will long remain as highspots in his memory. Ever-present for the past two seasons, Jeff is a key member of Wigan's first team squad.

FRANK CORRIGAN (Midfield). Although he missed the early games of the season, because of injury, this enthusiastic

Liverpool-born player was soon back again as an established member of the Wigan Athletic side. As a part-time professional, Frank played for Walsall, Burton Albion, Bangor City and Northwich Victoria before joining Wigan. Both with Northwich and Wigan, Corrigan has experienced all the joy of a Cup giant-killer, and after making the move into full-time Football League soccer, when Wigan stepped up in status, this skilful and experienced player has gone from strength to strength.

COLIN METHVEN (Defender). Manager Ian McNeill's deep knowledge of Scottish football enabled him to search out this strong and positive player who became Wigan's record signing at a fee of £30,000 from East Fife in October, 1979. It was soon obvious that the money had been well-spent, for Colin, good in the air and strong in the tackle, soon took over as Captain of the Wigan side and led his men to glory in last year's F.A. Cup competition. The key figure in Wigan's defensive organisation.

NEIL DAVIDS (Defender). Originating from Shipley, near Bradford, Neil played for Yorkshire School at right-back before joining Leeds United. The highlight of his five years at Elland Road was scoring the winning goal for England's Youth Team against Wales, but he did not have his league debut until he joined Norwich City. After two years at Carrow Road, and loan spells with Northampton Town and Stockport County, he joined Swansea City. However, this strong, aggressive defender never settled in Wales and joined Wigan before the start of their first year in League Football. Neil did not make an immediate impact at Springfield Park, but last year his positive style of play endeared him to the local fans and it was no surprise that the popular Yorkshireman made a first team spot his own.

PETER HOUGHTON (Forward). Another member of Wigan's Merseyside contingent, Peter was in the Liverpool Schools' team which won the English Schools' Trophy. He joined the Ford Motor Company as a Maintenance Fitter and stayed with them until becoming a full-time professional in July, 1978. As a part-time professional, he joined Wigan from South Liverpool, having previously played with Prescott Town. Although handicapped by a wrist injury, he was Wigan's top scorer in their first year in League Football, and repeated the feat last year, when he might have joined Portsmouth in an attractive transfer deal, but declined the opportunity.

TONY QUINN (Forward). With Everton as a junior for three seasons before joining Formby, young Tony moved "across the park" to Liverpool and played in their "A" team which won the Lancashire League and also helped the Liverpool County F.A. to win the English F.A. County Youth Cup. From Liverpool, he joined Wigan and quickly proved an outstanding marksman. Topped the Lancashire League scoring list in 1978/79, and scored in his first five full games for Wigan's Football League side! Although he lost his way a little towards the end of last season, Quinn still has time on his side.

MIKE QUINN (Forward). This Liverpool-born player, no relative of Tony, enjoyed a "Roy of the Rovers" rise to fame last season in the Wigan colours. Having seen service with Trarnere Rovers and Derby County in his post-school years, Mike was a key member in last year's Athletic Youth XI. Before the end of the season, he was to play and score for the first team at Football League level. A strong, bustling player.

BOBBY HUTCHINSON (Forward). Glasgow born, Bobby, a quick moving striker, is expected to give the Wigan Athletic side added skill and experience up front. Formerly a player with Dundee and Hibernian.

Coming to Prenton Park

Friday, 10th April, 1981

TRANMERE ROVERS v DARLINGTON

Football League Division Four — Kick-off 7.30 p.m.

Season Ticket Holders — Match No. 27



Today's man-in-charge

KEITH HACKETT

Mr. Hackett has been refereeing for over 20 years and is, without doubt, one of the top referees in the game today. In 1979 he was senior linesman for the F.A. Cup Final, and last season refereed a semi-final in both major competitions.

A Yorkshireman, and no doubt proud of it, Keith is married, with two sons, and is a Sales Manager. His hobbies are caravanning, all sports and walking.

Club Comment

What could be two of the most important days in the history of Tranmere Rovers Football Club were spent in the Town Hall, Birkenhead, recently. Lennons, in conjunction with Tranmere Rovers, were appealing against the refusal of Wirral Borough Council to grant planning permission for a supermarket to be built on the Club's Car Park. The money from such a project would enable the Club to reduce the bank overdraft considerably — at the same time cutting drastically the crippling interest charges.

The public enquiry certainly created a tremendous amount of publicity being covered by B.B.C. and Granada Television, local Radio stations together with National and Local Press. Arising out of the coverage came the deep feeling that so many individual people and organisations wanted Tranmere Rovers to succeed in order that the Club could continue its quest for survival — **AND ULTIMATE PROGRESS.**

THE FUTURE

I personally am not interested in what has happened in the past — I have my thoughts and will not discuss them as I personally feel that it is the future that really and truly matters. The only important aspect about the past is to learn from the mistakes of others and not repeat them in the future.

It would indeed be a pity if the Club should terminate its activities in its 99th year and I know that every possible factor will be examined by the Chairman, Mr. Harold Thomas, his Directors, Bryan Hamilton and myself before closure is considered if the appeal decision is against us.

A SHINING EXAMPLE

The Chairman has in the past few months, and particularly so in the last few weeks, performed miracles in his endeavours to produce all good reasons why Rovers must strive to re-build and go forward as a Football League Club. His experience and enthusiasm were indeed a feature of the inquiry and I sincerely hope that he is rewarded accordingly.

Tranmere Rovers are not alone, as other Football League Clubs strive to maintain League status. Cardiff City, Torquay United, Southport United, Rochdale, Bradford City are just a few that we know about — and there are others in similar financial trouble. This Club is not a long way from getting things right off the field — time will prove that statement, but it is certainly vitally important that things are put right on the field.

PROBLEMS OF THE MANAGER

Since Bryan Hamilton was appointed six months ago, he has not had the opportunity to strengthen his team because of the financial situation. In fact, he had to transfer his leading goalscorer Jim Lumby to help keep the Club going; but I know that his ideas are good, his enthusiasm unsurpassed and his will to succeed shines like a beacon. Given the opportunity, I know he will succeed and as I have said before, our problem will be in keeping him at Prenton Park — not getting rid of him!

IT'S UP TO YOU!

Finally, I ask all our supporters — young and old — to get out the mat at the side of the bed and say a few words to ensure that the decision is in our favour, so that we can go forward in a set-up that is equal to any in the Third and Fourth Divisions — and some in the Second.

Sponsors' Corner

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Prenton Profile

EDDIE ROBERTSON

There are two roads footballers follow from Scotland to England. One is the high road from the likes of Rangers and Celtic to the big clubs in the First Division of the Football League, the other way is the lower road. A road Eddie Robertson took in 1954. He was spotted by the then Second Division Bury manager Dave Russell, playing junior football for Linlithgow Rose and brought down to England.

He stayed at Bury for ten seasons playing in both Second and Third Divisions (North) as it was then. Bury were placed in the Third Division proper on the abandonment of regional football and, with Eddie in their ranks, won promotion back to the Second Division. Twelve months at Wrexham were the prelude to rejoining that wily Scotsman David Russell who by this time had moved over to Prenton, that was in 1964 and five years later came the moment of retirement. A job at Vauxhalls followed and then a move out to Connahs Quay to run a newsagents.

But the love of football was always there and when John King asked him to come back as trainer in 1975 he needed no second bidding. As he admits "There's something special about the atmosphere here, even when you think you are finished it never leaves you. So the chance to come back posed no problems at all for me. We mightn't have had too much success but one thing you can't alter is the tremendous spirit around the club."

On the departure of Mr. King, Eddie took over the side for a short spell and then started working with Bryan Hamilton and they get on well together. It's not been the best of seasons but there are the credit sides. "So many young



lads are forcing their way through that the only real bonus this season has been some of them have had and taken their chance when it was offered. The manager any myself have the materials now we've got to weld them into a side. If we can do that then the glory days that were here when I arrived could well be back with us" says Assistant Manager Eddie Robertson, a man who typifies the spirit and hope of the club.

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Personality Profile

by Derek Henderson

BRIAN MILLER

Twenty years ago, the suggestion of Burnley existing on a Third Division fixture list would have been unthinkable. Today it is a reality — but their manager Brian Miller is determined that this incredible club will soon be back in Division II — one big step nearer their ultimate target of a place in the top division.

I use the word 'incredible' advisedly because this Lancashire club, by shrewd management and solid boardroom example in the shape of burly Bob Lord, have managed to keep their heads high for many years despite the close proximity of a number of much wealthier clubs.

Burnley, indeed, have a reputation for producing players that is second to none in the annals of the Football League. There's something about the homely atmosphere of Turf Moor, in the shadow of the Lancashire hills and mills, that appeals to younger aspirants who might otherwise be overawed by the huge stadiums of Old Trafford and Goodison.

This is perhaps one reason why they opt for Burnley to serve their apprenticeship, and this is why Miller's job is possibly marginally easier than it might otherwise be.

As a player, Miller — a familiar sight with his close-cropped hairstyle — was a fine, dominating wing-half and was Burnley through and through. He took the managerial post after running through every job at the club from office boy to coach in a period of 28 years — that's loyalty for you!

But he accepted the job at a time when Burnley were at a very low ebb, the whipping-boys of Division II. I recall one of his first games in charge when they received a thrashing at QPR and recall the expression on his face as he surveyed the shambles around him.

But in a year a lot has happened and Miller has been busy. No fewer than 22 players have departed, and only a handful have come in. Youth has been given its head, the Reserves are going well in the Central League, and on the field under the influence of the elegant stylist Martin Dobson, the team are thriving.

With Frank Casper — a very useful player himself for Burnley and Rotherham — as his chief coach, Miller seems to be steering Burnley straight back up. They recently shattered a very old club record by going eight games without conceding a goal.

After the whackings of last season, that is in itself a minor miracle — and one which Miller can take full credit for.



Soccer Spotlight

by Derek Henderson

GREAT UPSETS Swindon v Arsenal 1969

Why is it that in the long and distinguished history of the F.A. Cup, a Third Division side has never carried off the trophy, yet in the League Cup, more than one has achieved the honour in a comparatively short space of years?

There doesn't seem to be an adequate answer. But for all that, there's something about the League Cup which seems to inspire the lower-division clubs to even greater achievements.

One of the most notable of these was in 1969 when at Wembley, First Division Arsenal were duly humbled by Danny Williams' Third Division Swindon.

In fairness, Swindon were an outstanding Third Division side at the time and possessed one man of exceptional qualities which were really wasted so low down in the League ladder.

He was powerful winger Don Rogers and he lit up this drab March day with two goals to bring pride and joy to the Wiltshire railway town.

It was Arsenal's second successive visit to Wembley in as many years, having lost to Leeds the previous year in the final.

This time they looked for all the world as though they would make up for that disappointment, for they had accounted for Liverpool, Sunderland and Tottenham on the path there.

Swindon made hard work of reaching Wembley and had to fight through no fewer than 11 ties but when Roger Smart put them ahead, the long path seemed to be well behind them.

Arsenal looked unperturbed and when Bobby Gould equalised with a typically dashing goal, we all waited for the 'lesser' light to be extinguished, but it was not to be — and this was when Rogers stamped his presence.

After putting Swindon back in front he made it 3-1 after one of the most dazzling individual runs ever seen in the great stadium.

So Swindon had emulated another Third Division club — Q.P.R. in 1967 — and demonstrated that it doesn't do to put labels on teams when Cup glory is at stake. Those labels have a habit of misleading you!

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with JOHN KING

Uruguay's Mundialito Tournament has come, gone, and almost been forgotten about, particularly in England where most of the national newspapers were apparently unaware of its existence from the almost total lack of coverage of the event. According to some reports there were apparently 1303 officially recognised journalists at the event with just one of them coming from England! Presumably they work on the assumption that if England are not represented then the games are of no importance.

Nevertheless, and despite the English journalists' lack of interest, the tournament's seven games were played, and the host side Uruguay finished up with the trophy by beating Brazil 2-1 in the final.

Generally speaking the tournament was something of a disappointment with one or two of the teams failing to provide the sort of football of which they had been thought capable. Perhaps the most significant points to emerge were the failure of the European teams, and the much improved form of the Brazilians.

At the end of the day Brazil were considered by most neutral observers to be more than a little unlucky to lose the final to Uruguay, whilst in their two qualifying games they drew 1-1 with World Champions Argentina in a game in which they enjoyed 75% of the play; and slaughtered West Germany 4-1. For the Germans the tournament was little short of a disaster, and they returned without a point and with something of a question mark against their World Cup aspirations.

Italy were little better, managing just one point from their game against Holland and having two men, Cabrine and

Tardelli, sent off against Uruguay in a game that was little better than a brawl. Holland were undeniably much the worst team of the tournament and are now only a shadow of the team who have finished runners-up in the last two World Cup competitions. On recent form it is hard to see Holland posing much of a threat in Spain, or even managing to qualify.

Uruguay won the trophy largely because they most wanted to and were prepared to stop at nothing in order to do so. They were moderately well organised and in fact had the youngest squad in the tournament, but still have a lot to learn if they are to repeat the performance in the World Cup.

For the record, and because it hasn't appeared too often before in England, we reproduce the full results below:

GROUP A

Uruguay 2 Holland 0 (H.T. 2-0) Att. 60,000

Uruguay 2 Italy 0 (H.T. 1-0) Att. 55,000

Holland 1 Italy 1 (H.T. 1-1) Att. 16,000

Final Table		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uruguay	2	2	0	0	4	0	4	4
Holland	2	0	1	1	1	3	1	1
Italy	2	0	1	1	1	3	1	1

GROUP B

Argentina 2 West Germany 1 (H.T. 0-1) Att. 50,000

Argentina 1 Brazil 1 (H.T. 1-0) Att. 50,000

Brazil 4 West Germany 1 (H.T. 0-0) Att. 45,000

Final Table		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	2	1	1	0	5	2	3	3
Argentina	2	1	1	0	3	2	3	3
West Germany	2	0	0	2	2	6	0	0

FINAL

Uruguay 2 Brazil 1 (H.T. 0-0) Att. 71,000

(Scorers: Uruguay — Barrios 48, Victorino 82.

Brazil — Socrates 60 pen).

Tournament leading scorer — Victorino (Uruguay) 3.

PLAYERS PLEASE!!

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Wilfred J. Mannion born in South Bank 16th May, 1918. Wilf's connection with Middlesbrough was established on the first of August 1936, when he signed for the Ayrshire Park Club as an Amateur. His League debut was against Portsmouth, on the 2nd January, 1937. War intervened and saw Wilf serving in the Green Howard's in Europe and the Mediterranean. He only managed four war-time internationals. A great bleeding for the first time in an England full international at Belfast on 28th September, 1946 saw Wilf achieve every players dream a HAT TRICK on his debut in a thrilling 7-2 victory, so many fans wanted to see this match that even the playing area had to be cleared by the referee, Billy Webb before the game could commence. Twenty five more caps were won by Wilf during his international career.

The idol of Teeside retired in 1954 when his beloved Boro were relegated to Division 2. Hull City persuaded him to return to League soccer but the come back was short lived. Non-League clubs secured his services until 1961 when he finally quit the game.



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SEALS PUT MORE EN

Chester F.C. programme editor,

Photographs: Mark Hibbin

Chester Football Club like the majority of league clubs have become victims of the recessionary times which are at present making a strong impact on attendances, especially in the lower reaches. During Chester F.C.'s first eighteen home league fixtures this season they have attracted only 47,028 paying customers; a match average of 2,612. After the mandatory deductions have been made i.e. 15% vat, 4% to the Football League, Visitors payments, police, stewards, wages etc. the Seals find themselves in the unenviable position of losing in the region of over £3,500 per week.

It is with this in mind that club manager, Alan Oakes has with his assistant Cliff Sear (both ex-Manchester City) become more thorough in their search for young and talented footballers who in the long run will hopefully save money for the club on exorbitant transfer fees.

Last season a youngster emerged into the Seals first team by the name of Ian Rush — 34 games and 14 goals later, scouts, managers and club executives were flocking from all over the country watching him. Towards the end of last season a £300,000 offer from Liverpool was made. As manager Alan Oakes said "How could we refuse that amount of cash for a lad of eighteen with the club losing money hand over fist through the turnstiles".

The Sealand Road youngsters in more recent years have been handled by Cliff Sear, with his expertise and guidance the club can now boast its best ever crop of youngsters. Already this season Terry Cooke, Peter Zelem, Richie Gendall (all home grown talent) have made the first team. But with such poor attendances it is inevitable that players will have to be sold to balance the books. "As soon as a youngster in the lower



l-r: Vince Pritchard (Physio); Alan Oakes (player-manager) and Cliff Sear (assistant-manager)..... Youth policy absolutely vital.

leagues shows any promise it's just a matter of time before the phone is ringing with an enquiry from one of the larger clubs dangling a monetary carrot in front of you that you just cannot refuse"....he continued by saying "matchday turnstiles are just not clicking often enough at many of the smaller clubs, so it's self to survive in the majority of cases.

It is not only the economical climate which is affecting Chester F.C. attendances — 22 miles away from both Everton and Liverpool; and in a more northerly direction (40 miles) the homes of Manchester's big two is also a temptation to the younger footballing public of Chester. Although many

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MPHASIS ON YOUTH

Terry Vickers talks to Alan Oakes
n, Chester Evening Leader

footballing youngsters on leaving school long to sign for the big city clubs, there are many who are influenced to join the likes of Chester. Why? "Quite simple" said Alan Oakes.... "some boys would sooner be a name in a smaller unit than a number in a larger operation".

The Seals recently acquired the services of six-foot plus youngster John Allen, a local lad who was also under the watchful eyes of several much bigger clubs — but John decided his early footballing days would be better spent at Sealand Road thus work his way through the junior teams as other youngsters have and hope for an earlier chance of 'the big time'.

Another youngster is Caernarvon born 'keeper Phil Harrington who has impressed the backroom boys at Chester and was recently selected for the Welsh Youth squad to play in the European Youth Tournament.

But at the end of the day, how long can the smaller clubs hold on to their starlets? "Chester Football Club certainly cannot make ends meet on current attendances, so a youth policy is absolutely vital, both for future team developments and as an added source of much needed income".



Promising young 'keeper Phil Harrington during a training session.



Three young lads who have been given Third Division debuts during the current season.... L-r: Peter Zelem, Terry Cooke and Richie Gendall.

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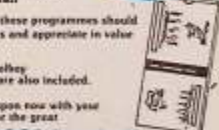
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MEMORABLE MATCHES

MANCHESTER UNITED v BLACKPOOL 1948

by Derek Henderson

This was the first of the three Cup Finals in the years immediately after the war in which the great Stanley Matthews chased his elusive Cup winners' medal — and as most soccer enthusiasts will know, the first of his unsuccessful quests.

Fortunately for him and the satisfaction of countless admirers, he did eventually win it at the third time of asking against Bolton.

But on this sunny day in 1948 — especially memorable for me as it was my first-ever visit to the great stadium — there was played out a final which many observers reckoned was the best for sheer quality and sustained skill they had ever seen.

Manchester United came as favourites but with 20 minutes remaining, were trailing 2-1 to a Blackpool side which had the deadly Stan Mortensen at centre-forward and the talented Harry Johnston driving his team on from the half-back line.

United gave away a duff early goal through a desperate tackle by Chilton on Mortensen which produced a penalty duly converted by Shrimwell.

Rowley equalised for United, but the lively Mortensen, again a threat, went through to give the Seasiders the lead.

And so it was until deep into the second half when a picture goal by Rowley levelled the scores.

Pearson put United in front 10 minutes from the end and Blackpool's chagrin was complete when a long-range shot from half-back Anderson rifled into their net a few moments afterwards.

United's football was classic, right from the back where the full backs Carey and Aston were thoughtful players, up to a front line which in today's financial terms would be worth millions — Delaney, Morris, Rowley, Pearson, Mitten. What skill — and what a match.

Looking back on 22 F.A. Cup Finals I have witnessed, that remains for me the best, and the memory of it never fades.



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Tuck into Kentucky Fried Chicken

EX-LEAGUE DATA

A statistical roundup of the 23 former Football League clubs, some playing in local and regional leagues others defunct — as spotlighted by Terry Vickers.

Gateshead

Complete League Record	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
	1486	628	367	691	2252	2235	1479

Founded at the turn of the last century as South Shields Athletic, by 1906 they were known locally as South Shields. In 1919 the club from Harsley Hill Road had gained Football League admission — eleven seasons were spent in Division 2 and 3 (North) when in 1938 the club moved to Redworth Park, Teesside, Gateshead and changed their official club title accordingly.

Probably the most famous player to grace the club was full-back Wernford Crosswell who made 87 appearances before Sunderland signed him for £5,000 then a record in 1922.

"The Ladies" were cover a team to fifteen appearances in the F.A. Cup, however in 1952 they reached the quarter-finals beating Liverpool (1-0), Hull City (2-1), Plymouth (1-0) before losing by the only goal of the game to Bolton Wanderers the eventual cup winners — the team from Ex. Durham also reached the last sixteen in 1929, 1932 and 1937.

In 1929-30 they recorded a 15-1 league victory over Middlesbrough United their highest league score. Three seasons after the white and black of Gateshead finished in joint first place with Lincoln City, but lost out on promotion on goal average — Lincoln's being 1.08 A, 47 with Gateshead's 1.54 A, 40.

During the late 1920's results went badly against them and at the end of the 1929-30 season they finished in 22nd place (Gateshead and Hartlepool below them) but lost their place to Peterborough United. The Ladies' five seasons statistics were as follows...

Season	League	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1929-30	3 North	46	11	13	22	44	44	23
1930-31	3 North	46	17	15	14	50	44	39
1931-32	3 North	46	18	15	13	60	36	40
1932-33	Div. 4	46	18	4	24	55	34	34
1933-34	Div. 4	46	12	9	25	50	38	33

First ever league game (away) v. Fulham 30.8.1919 lost 3-0.
First league game (away) v. Carlisle United 30.4.1960 lost 0-4.



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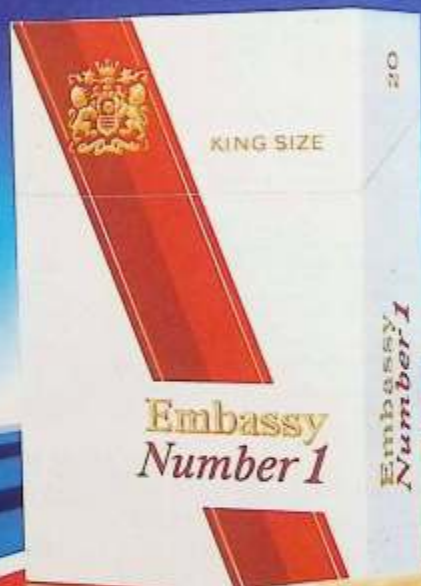
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* Denotes substituted player

League Division 4

Up to and including Saturday 21st March, 1981

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Southend	38	26	5	7	67	25	57
Lincoln	38	21	12	5	60	21	54
Doncaster	38	18	10	10	50	42	46
Mansfield	38	19	6	13	50	33	44
Aldershot	37	16	10	11	35	31	42
Wimbledon	36	17	7	12	52	39	41
Peterborough	38	14	13	11	58	47	41
Darlington	38	16	9	13	57	50	41
Bournemouth	39	15	11	13	42	40	41
Hartlepool	39	16	8	15	54	56	40
Wigan	39	15	9	15	38	43	39
Torquay	38	17	4	17	61	53	38
Bradford	38	12	14	12	43	49	38
Crewe	39	12	13	14	44	51	37
Northampton	37	14	8	15	55	61	36
Rochdale	38	12	12	14	51	57	36
Scunthorpe	38	7	19	12	45	52	33
Bury	37	12	8	17	50	53	32
Stockport	38	12	7	19	37	49	31
Tranmere	36	11	8	17	45	54	30
Port Vale	36	10	9	17	49	62	29
York	36	10	8	18	36	49	28
Halifax	38	7	11	20	38	64	25
Hereford	35	7	9	19	30	56	23

With the Reserves

ROVERS RESERVES 3

CHESTER 'A' 2

(7th March, 1981)

John Williams, who made his return to the 1st team against Bradford City in a striking position, has certainly made a habit of scoring for the Reserves.

He started the season in the second team with six goals in five games and has recently scored three times in as many games.

And, more often than not, his goals have arrived at crucial moments in games.

Against Chester, at a time when Rovers had lost their way and the game looked set for a draw, the big centre back put the home side back into the lead on their way to a double over Chester.

The scoring had started in the 18th minute. A good move down the right, headed on by Steve Whittingham, ended with Steve Craven slamming the ball past Welsh Youth 'keeper Phil Harrington.

Whittingham almost scored 12 minutes later when he headed Williams' cross on to the bar. Then another Craven shot was well saved by Harrington.

At the other end former Liverpool and Shrewsbury player Trevor Birch nearly equalised when trialist 'keeper Melvyn Winnett mis-kicked a clearance. But Dave Young was on hand to clear.

Chester did equalise in the 59th minute when Ian Howarth converted a penalty after Dave Burgess had brought Birch to the ground.

But the game really came to life after 77 minutes when Williams headed that vital goal from a Steve Peglow corner.

PETER FARRELL.

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Shaw	Aston Villa	17

SECOND DIVISION

Cross	West Ham	20
Lee	Chelsea	16
Moss	Luton	16
Harford	Newcastle	16
Poskett	Watford	16

THIRD DIVISION

Kellow	Exeter	25
Kemp	Plymouth	23
Hales	Charlton	21
Birch	Chesterfield	19

FOURTH DIVISION

Cooke	Peterborough	21
Cork	Wimbledon	20
Lumby	Mansfield	19
	(includes 17 with Tranmere)	
Phillips	Northampton	18
Hobson	Lincoln	17
Spence	Southend	17

Junior Roundup

MANCHESTER UNITED 'A' 1

ROVERS RESERVES 2

(14 March, 1981)

Rovers kept the pressure on at the top of the Lancashire League with deserved victory over a United team containing nine members of their successful Youth squad.

Steve Whittingham put Rovers into the lead in the 35th minute when he headed home Eddie Floods cross.

Craig LeComu's free-kicks have proved very effective in recent games. So it was against United. Only this time Irish youth international Dave Jeffries headed an own goal to put Rovers into a two goal interval lead.

Paul Allen, back in Rovers goal, saved brilliantly from a United free-kick and at the other end Whittingham's header was cleared off the line.

But United pulled one back five minutes from the end when Danny Keough successfully converted a penalty.

PETER FARRELL

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE (Top positions)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rovers Res.	26	17	6	3	63	32	40
Oldham Res.	22	18	1	3	65	22	37
Chester 'A'	27	12	4	11	42	45	28
Wrexham Res.	22	12	3	7	59	39	27



Win - lose - Draw

Supporters' Scene

Good afternoon for what will be Rovers' first Sunday game since the Football League Chairmen voted to allow a limited number of games to be played on the Sabbath. The heavy snow thwarted the first attempt v Bradford City 3 weeks ago, let's hope that some spring sunshine accompanies the players today.

A warm welcome to Wigan fans, their team now including Larry Lloyd recently appointed player manager. An especially warm welcome to anyone here this afternoon who does not normally come to Prenton Park, be they on their own or with the family.

The Directors and Staff of the football club have expressed appreciation to every member who worked so hard in the distribution and collection of leaflets in the surrounding districts. The Club said that our help was invaluable and Jack Butterfield commented "At times like this the men are sorted out from the boys when genuine help is required — I think that for the first time since I joined the Club I know the real true friends of Tranmere Rovers".

AWAY MATCHES

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- 2 Ray Mathias
- 3 Eddie Flood
- 4 John Bramhall
- 5 Derek Mountfield
- 6 Clive Evans
- 7 Neville Powell
- 8 Bryan Hamilton
- 9 Ken Beamish
- 10 John Kerr
- 11 Ian Griffiths
- 12 Steve Mungall

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- 4 Alex Cribble
- 5 Colin Methven
- 6 Larry Lloyd
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